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General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Items 29, 33, 39, 74 (p), 94 and 96 of the preliminary list*

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Culture of peace

Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

General and complete disarmament: regional disarmament

Macroeconomic policy questions

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 2 May 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan and Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from our Governments, we have the honour to transmit the text of a joint statement issued by the Presidents of Georgia and Azerbaijan during the visit of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Georgia from 22 to 23 March 2000 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 29, 33, 39, 74 (p), 94 and 96 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Eldar **Kouliev**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Peter **Chkheidze**
Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations

* A/55/50.

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Annex to the letter dated 2 May 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan and Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint statement

At the invitation of E. Shevardnadze, President of Georgia, H. Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, paid an official visit to Georgia from 22 to 23 March 2000.

During the talks which were held and the exchange of views on the political, economic and social processes that had taken place in their countries, the Parties discussed questions relating to the further development and intensification of bilateral cooperation and current regional and international problems that were of mutual interest.

The Parties noted with satisfaction the high level of bilateral relations between the two States, based on a strategic partnership.

The Parties emphasized their mutual interest in the building of the independent sovereign democratic States of Georgia and Azerbaijan, in accordance with international legal standards, including the development of a qualitatively new level of intergovernmental relations in the twenty-first century.

The Parties reaffirmed the historical need for the building of a Europe without dividing lines in the twenty-first century.

The Parties noted the growing significance of the strengthening of cooperation between Georgia and Azerbaijan in the conditions of the new international reality with a view to ensuring a basis of stability and promoting the process of the establishment of a new system of security in the region.

The Parties expressed their confidence that the pledge of peace and security in the South Caucasus region was in keeping with the principles of State sovereignty, equality of rights, territorial integrity, the inviolability of frontiers, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, the peaceful settlement of disputes and other generally recognized standards of international law.

The Parties condemned acts of aggression, aggressive separatism and terrorism in all their forms and manifestations which were aimed at bringing about a violent change in the internationally recognized frontiers of the States of the region, threatened the territorial integrity and security of States and undermined human fundamental rights and freedoms, the principles of democracy and the values common to all mankind, and expressed the wish to develop cooperation to combat such threats.

It was noted that the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Strengthening of Mutual Security between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Georgia of 8 March 1996, the Declaration on Peace, Security and Cooperation in the Caucasus Region, signed at Tbilisi on 8 March 1996 and the Declaration on the Further Strengthening of Strategic Cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Georgia of 18 February 1997 provided a solid foundation for mutual relations and could serve as a basis for a basic document aimed at ensuring security and peace in the South Caucasus. The Parties greatly valued the proposal put forward by H. Aliyev,

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, at the Istanbul Summit of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) regarding a security and cooperation pact for the South Caucasus, as well as the results of the Istanbul Summit of OSCE, and they emphasized the significance of the Charter on European Security and other documents adopted during that meeting which were aimed at the strengthening of security and stability in Europe in the twenty-first century.

The Parties expressed their readiness to continue their cooperation in the future within the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, the Council of Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and other international organizations and forums, and reaffirmed that the effectiveness of the new European security structure would depend above all on proper compliance by all States with the obligations they had undertaken and the establishment of mechanisms for interaction between OSCE, the Council of Europe, the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the United Nations.

The Parties reaffirmed the need for the speedy implementation of the decisions of the United Nations and OSCE and of other documents adopted within those organizations on the Nagorny Karabakh conflict and the conflict in Abkhazia. The Parties expressed their strong confidence that the settlement of those conflicts should be based on respect for and maintenance of sovereignty, territorial integrity and the inviolability of frontiers, since such a settlement would provide a reliable guarantee for the attainment of peace, stability and trust between the States of the South Caucasus.

The Parties expressed satisfaction at the expansion and intensification of cooperation within GUUAM and reaffirmed their intention to improve and strengthen mechanisms for continuing consultation and interaction.

The Parties noted the extreme importance of implementing joint practical measures with a view to expediting the large-scale functioning of the Europe-Asia transport corridor, the restoration of the Great Silk Route and the implementation of the programmes for the Transport Corridor — Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA) and the Interstate Oil and Gas Transmission to Europe (INOGATE).

During the talks, the Presidents agreed definitively on all the main questions of principle on the construction and entry into operation of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline as the main export pipeline for the transport of oil from the Caspian region, including questions relating to transit tariffs, and they reaffirmed their readiness to complete the preparation of all the necessary documents in April 2000.

The Parties expressed their interest in the all-round development and intensification of the Trans-Caspian process of cooperation in the transport of fuel to international markets.

The Presidents gave a positive evaluation of the development of the Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation and stressed the importance of the steps taken towards the institutional strengthening of that organization.

The Parties once again expressed their adherence to democratic reforms, the protection of human rights, respect for the rights of national minorities and the implementation of all the obligations arising out of the basic documents of the

United Nations and OSCE and stressed their resolve to build democratic States ruled by law.

The Parties noted the importance of the delimitation and demarcation of the State frontier between Georgia and the Republic of Azerbaijan and reaffirmed the need to continue the work of the State commissions.

The Parties expressed support for the efforts to develop and intensify cooperation on matters relating to labour, social welfare, education, science and culture and comprehensive exchanges in those areas.

The Parties reaffirmed their determination to collaborate in the development of mutually advantageous cooperation in all spheres of the economy and to take measures to ensure favourable conditions for such cooperation.

The Parties once again reaffirmed that they attached great significance to questions relating to the maintenance of the rights and protection of the interests of Azerbaijanis living in Georgia and of Georgians living in Azerbaijan and that they regarded concern for them as a priority area of State policy.

After giving a positive evaluation of the results of the visit and having noted the fruitful character of the talks, the Parties declared that it was their aim to continue and increase cooperation in a spirit of good-neighbourliness, friendship and mutual assistance.

Done at Tbilisi, on 22 March 2000, in two original copies, each in the Azerbaijani, Georgian and Russian languages, all texts being equally authentic.

(*Signed*) H. **Aliyev**
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

(*Signed*) E. **Shevardnadze**
President of Georgia